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United for Quality Care

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Brenda Glazier, PCA
Simsbury

District 1199 New England
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Brenda Glazier and I'm a PCA from Simsbury. I'm here to ask you to invest in home care services in Connecticut so that we as PCAs do not have to live in poverty.

I love the work I do because I make a positive difference in my consumer's life. The consumer I care for has a traumatic brain injury and has lived with me since 2016. I'm essentially a round-the-clock caregiver.

I've been without health insurance throughout the bulk of the pandemic. I've looked into private insurance but it would cost me \$600-\$700 per month. If I purchased that insurance I'd be living in a tent. I don't qualify for food stamps or any other state assistance because I get paid 40 hours per week, which puts me technically over the poverty level but still working poor, uninsured, and without any safety net.

I got COVID last month, and the anxiety of worrying about what would happen if I would have needed emergency medical care was overwhelming. When I was having severe leg pain with COVID, I worried that it might be another blood clot which I've experienced in the past. I made a plan that if I need care, I would call 911, because that would be my only option not to get denied if I was having an emergency.

I'm also on maintenance medication for a chronic condition, and just got a letter from my primary care physician that if I don't come in for my physical, she'll no longer prescribe my meds. But a physical costs hundreds of dollars, and I'll tell you exactly how much I have in my checking account: \$1.68.

To add insult to injury, in addition to working through COVID with no paid time off, I haven't been paid in 3 weeks due to Allied and DSS' delay in processing my consumer's paperwork, with no outreach to explain why.

Please do what is right by me and my consumer and allocate the funding needed for PCAs to earn a living wage and receive benefits. Thank you for your time.

